

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UNESCO
SUBJECT: GOL REACTION TO THE UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE IN
NAIROBI

REF: (A) STATE 291437, (B) STATE 007569

1. ADVERTUS HOFF, GOL MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE
UNESCO 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE POLITICAL
COUNSELOR JANUARY 12, MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS REGARDING
THE 19TH GC:

A. AFRICAN STATES HAD SPENT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO INTRODUCE
MORE MODERATE LANGUAGE INTO RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL AND WERE
PLEASED WITH THE RESULT. THIS REPRESENTED AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE
LAST GC. WHILE SUCH LOCALIZED POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE A BURDEN TO
UNESCO, MANY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF THE GOL, FEEL THAT GREAT
POWER RIVALRIES AMONG THE U.S., USSR AND PRC ALSO INTRUDE TOO MUCH
INTO UNESCO AFFAIRS.

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B. THE ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO ANTAGONIZE MANY MEMBERS, INCLUDING
THE GOL, WITH THEIR ARROGANCE AND UNCOOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. THE ARAB
POSITION GAINS SUPPORTERS IN PART BECAUSE OF THIS ATTITUDE OF THE
ISRAELIS.

C. THE DISPUTE OVER THE MASS
MEDIA QUESTION OVERLOOKED THE FACT THAT MANY AFRICANS RESENT THE

VIRTUAL MONOPOLY WHICH NON-AFRICAN NEWS SERVICES HAVE OVER REPORTING ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. AFRICAN STATES FEEL THE NEED FOR GREATER INFLUENCE OVER THE CONTENT OF REPORTING ON AFRICA SO THAT THERE WILL BE A MORE SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD AFRICAN PROBLEMS THAN IS CHARACTERISTIC OF REPORTING BY NON-AFRICAN MEDIA.

2. S. SONI SHERMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE UNGA, COMMENTED TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JANUARY 13 THAT:

A. IN ORGANIZATIONS LIKE UNESCO AND THE UNGA, THE U.S. OUGHT TO SHOW GREATER RESPECT FOR MAJORITY POSITIONS. THE U.S. TENDS TO UNDERMINE ITS OWN POSITION AND PRESTIGE BY CONSTANTLY CRITICIZING THE "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY." THIS MERELY EXPOSES THE U.S. AS BEING ISOLATED FROM MAJORITY VIEWS.

B. THE U.S. SHOULD NOT WITHDRAW FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MERELY BECAUSE TRENDS OF OPINION IN THAT ORGANIZATION DO NOT PLEASE IT. IF THE U.S. APPRECIATES THE LEADERSHIP OF M'BOW IN UNESCO, IT SHOULD RESUME ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNESCO.

C. ISRAEL IN FACT IS GUILTY OF THE CHARGES LEVELLED AGAINST HER ON THE JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES MATTERS, AS SHOWN BY THE STATEMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL OBSERVERS, AND FORMAL UNESCO INVESTIGATORY MISSIONS ARE UNNECESSARY. THE U.S. SHOULD PERSUADE THE ISRAELIS TO SHOW A MORE CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST HER IN THESE MATTERS.
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D. THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY SOME NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE LDCS, IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE OFTEN RIGID AND EXTREME, BUT THESE NATIONS HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF THEIR OWN SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND THIS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. FURTHERMORE, THE U.S. SHOULD REMEMBER THAT IN MANY CASES, NATIONS WOULD PREFER TO ADOPT MORE MODERATE POSITIONS BUT FEEL OBLIGED - IN ROLL CALL VOTES - TO SIDE WITH EXTREMISTS.

E. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF, IN ORGANIZATIONS LIKE UNESCO, THERE WERE SPECIAL COMMITTEES SET UP TO WHICH ALL CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL MATTERS MIGHT BE REFERRED, SO THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS COULD CONCENTRATE ON THEIR MAIN PURPOSES.

3. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR INFORMED HOFF AND SHERMAN OF THE U.S. ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE 19TH GC (REF A), AND THANKED THE GOL FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF MODERATION AND COMPROMISE. HE STRESSED THE U.S. CONVICTION THAT ALL STATES MUST EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN AVOIDING INJECTION OF EXTRANEOUS POLI-

TICAL ISSUES INTO THE FUNCTIONING OF TECHNICAL AGENCIES IF THESE AGENCIES ARE TO REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL, AND THAT THE U.S. PEOPLE AND CONGRESS FEEL STRONGLY ON THIS POINT.

4. ON JANUARY 14, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REF B, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOLD SHERMAN (A) THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD INFORMED THE SENATE AND HOUSE DECEMBER 29 THAT HE COULD CERTIFY THAT UNESCO HAD ADOPTED POLICIES AND TAKEN STEPS SPECIFIED IN LEGISLATION OF DECEMBER 30, 1974, AND REQUESTED COMPLETE AND FULL FUNDING OF U.S. OBLIGATIONS TO UNESCO; AND (B) THAT WE WILL NOT KNOW CONGRESSIONAL REACTION FOR SOME TIME. SHERMAN WAS PLEASED AT WHAT HE TERMED "GOOD NEWS."

5. COMMENT: THE GOL, AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, WILL BE IN A POSITION TO PROMOTE ADDITIONAL HELPFUL ACTIONS AT THE EB MEETING IN APRIL-MAY. THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT THE GOL WILL BE RECEPTIVE TO WHATEVER SUGGESTIONS THE U.S. MIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE IN THIS REGARD.
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Message Attributes

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